



Access English Centre
Immigrant Centre Manitoba
High Beginner Level: Cool-Down Activity



Small Talk
15 minutes

Objective/Goal:

Gives participants the opportunity to practice descriptive words about each other.

Materials:

Participants need:

- none

Facilitator needs:

- a soft ball (ex. football)
- Optional: For Extension Activity A: -
computer (with internet access)
- projector
- screen

Procedure:

- 1) **Gather** the participants together as the whole group.
- 2) **Have** them sit in a circle formation.
- 3) **Explain** that the cool-down activity will have the whole group discuss the do's and don'ts of "small talk".
- 4) The facilitator will **call out** "Do" or "Don't" and then toss the football lightly to anyone within the circle.
- 5) The recipient of the football will **say** a "Do" that a person can do or say when engaging in small talk then this person **calls out** "Do" or "Don't" and he/she will toss the football to the next person within the circle. The same process will continue.
Ex.:DO's
 - 1) Do smile.
 - 2) Do good eye contact.
 - 3) Do talk about the weather, sports, activities.
Ex.:DON'T's
 - 1) Don't frown or scowl.
 - 2) Don't avoid eye contact.
 - 3) Don't talk about personal problems.
- 6) If a participant give an incorrect response or cannot answer. The person will



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pass the football to someone else.

- 7) The first time it is played, just go over the "Do's" then the next time review the "Don't's".
- 8) The following game, mix -up or alternate the inquiries of the do's and don'ts.

Extension Activities:

- *Extension Activities are alternative or extra activities that can be done to supplement the main activity when there is extra time. They can also be done in the next class as a review of previous vocabulary or conversation.*

A. Please see the following websites for additional info/ ideas or to share and display to the participants for class discussions:

http://www.englishclub.com/speaking/small-talk_conversation-starters.htm

<http://www.esl-lab.com/eslbasic/conversation-starters-1.htm>

<http://friendship.about.com/od/Meeting-New-Friends/tp/How-To-Make-Small-Talk.htm>